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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/637,846	08/10/2000	Sujith Arramreddy	RCC-001	7094

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CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
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EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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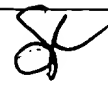
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DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SR

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/637,846	Applicant(s) ARRAMREDDY ET AL. 	
	Examiner Kim T. Huynh	Art Unit 2112	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-9 and 10-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 14, 16, 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10, 12-13, 15, 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kelly et al. (US Patent 5,592,631)

As per claim 10, Kelly discloses a method of assigning priority to a master on a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus, comprising:

- Posting a request by the master to an arbiter to take control of the PCI bus; (col.8, lines 48-65)
- Issuing a provisional grant by the arbiter to the master; (col.4, lines 28-41)
- Determining whether data is available from a target associated with the request; (col.7, lines 49-55)
- If the data is not available, assigning a LOW priority to the master, wherein the LOW priority is maintained until the data becomes available; and (since by default master got the ownership if no data available, it is inherently assigning as LOW priority), (col.7, lines 49-55)
- If the data is available, assigning a HIGH priority to the master.(col.7, lines 49-55), wherein assigning ownership of bus implies high priority)

Kelly discloses all the limitations as above except the method further comprising assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level after the master requests a target.

Examiner takes official notice that assigning a MEDIUM priority level is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level into Kelly's system for rearranging the priority of the masters, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

As per claim 11, Kelly discloses all the limitations as above except wherein the master is inactive (not grant implies inactive) between assigning a MEDIUM priority and posting a request.

Examiner takes official notice that assigning a MEDIUM priority level is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level into Kelly's system for rearranging the priority of the masters, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

As per claim 12, Kelly discloses the method further comprising modifying the request if the data is available, and sending the modified request to the arbiter.
(col.8, lines 48-65)

As per claim 13, Kelly discloses the method further comprising if the PCI bus is available, and no other HIGH priority masters have earlier rights to the PCI bus, issuing a final grant by the arbiter to the master to allow the master to take control of the PCI bus. (col.7, lines 39-55), (col.8, lines 41-56)

As per claim 15, Kelly discloses a peripheral component interconnect(PCI) bus system comprising:

- A PCI bus; (col.1, lines 60-63)
- A plurality of masters coupled to the PCI bus, each said master being initially assigned a MEDIUM priority;
- A plurality of targets coupled to the PCI bus; and (col.1, lines 30-37), (col.3, lines 50-57), (col.8, lines 57-66)
- An arbiter which assigns ownership of the PCI bus to said masters,
- Wherein the arbiter issues a preliminary grant to one said master, which posts a request to control the PCI bus to access one said target, (col.4, lines 28-41)
- Wherein if data is not available from the one said target, the arbiter assigns a LOW priority to the one said master, wherein the LOW priority is maintained until the data becomes available, and (col.7, lines 49-55)
- Wherein if the data is available from the one said target, the arbiter assigns a HIGH priority to the one said master. (col.7, lines 49-55), wherein assigning ownership of bus implies high priority)

Kelly discloses all the limitations as above except the method further comprising assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level after the master requests a target.

Examiner takes official notice that assigning a MEDIUM priority level is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level into Kelly's system for rearranging the priority of the masters, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

As per claim 17, Kelly discloses wherein the one said master modifies the request if the data is available, and sends the modified request to the arbiter.

(col.8, lines 48-65)

As per claim 18, Kelly discloses wherein if the PCI bus is available, and no other HIGH priority masters have earlier rights to the PCI bus, the arbiter issues a final grant to the one said master to allow the one said master to take control of the PCI bus. (col.8, lines 44-65)

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-9 are allowable.

Applicant's claimed invention is deemed allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art fails to teach or suggest assigning a master a MEDIUM priority level, wherein the master is inactive until the master asserts a request signal when the master wants to take control of the PCI bus;

CLAIMS OBJECTION

4. Claims 11, 14, 16, 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As per claims 11, 16 Kelly discloses wherein the one said master is inactive after being assigned the MEDIUM priority until the one said master posts the request to control the PCI bus.

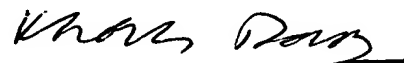
As per claims 14, 19, prior art fails to teach or suggest the method further comprising changing the priority of the master back to the MEDIUM priority after transferring the data from the target.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.



Kim Huynh

March 25, 2004

Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner